



By Brigadier General Kenneth M. Taylor Jr.



**MACRO ON RECRUITING STATS.** Recruiting in January was greatly assisted by internal leads. We had eight internal leads at the 168<sup>th</sup> alone. Statewide, we had 23 enlistments for January. KEEP THOSE LEADS COMING! Welcome to the newest recruiter on board (168<sup>th</sup> ARW), TSgt David Matthews. TSgt Matthews successfully completed Recruiting School on 31 Jan 97.

**SYNCHRONIZATION IN RESCUE.** On 30 January 1997, in a well tuned team effort, the pilot of a South Central Air "Dehaviland Caribou" aircraft was rescued. FAA contacted the 11<sup>th</sup> Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) and started the ball rolling. The RCC contacted the 210<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron at Kulis and they launched two aircraft. Bad weather caused problems. The Pararescuemen wound up landing at Sparrevohn AFS and were taken by track vehicle to the site. They braved 35-50 knot winds, hiking on snow shoes over steep, icy ridge to reach the victim. The pilot probably saved his own life first by burying himself under cloth in the back of the fuselage (thus preventing death from hypothermia) and then by signaling the aircraft overhead by shining the flashlight through the cracks in the fuselage (so the rescuers knew there was in fact someone alive at the site). After the Pararescuemen had the survivor ready to transport they were picked up by an Army National Guard UH1H and transported to Iliamna. At Iliamna the Pararescuemen and survivor were loaded up on to the HC-130, flown to Elmendorf Air Force Base, picked up there by a civilian ambulance and transported to Alaska Regional Hospital. Congratulations to all for a great, joint team effort.

**SHORT SHOT ON DEPLOYMENTS.** Alaska Air Guardmembers are, *or soon will be*, deployed to Indonesia, Japan, Okinawa, Thailand, Korea and the lower Forty-Eight.

**ANGLE SHOT ON LEADERSHIP.** Juneau will be the site for the Alaska National Guard's 1997 Senior Leadership Conference. Over 60 Army and Air National Guard leaders will convene their opening their two day session on February 12<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is - "The Role of the National Guard in a Militia Nation." The Governor has approved February 12<sup>th</sup> as Alaska National Guard Day and the proclamation will be presented at the conference.

**CLOSEUP ON NEW RESPONSIBILITIES.** In a series of new assignments, within the Alaska Air Guard, seven senior officers have moved to positions (as noted):

Col Don McKelvey - Commander, 168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing; Col Patty Dolezal - Commander, 176<sup>th</sup> Support Group; Col George Cannelos - Chief of Staff & Executive Support Staff Officer, Headquarters, Alaska Air Guard; Lt Col Henry Dahlquist - Director of Operations, Headquarters, Alaska Air Guard; Lt Col Rick Shaw - Director of Personnel, Joint Staff, Alaska National Guard; Lt Col Paul Smith - Commander, 176<sup>th</sup> Operations Group; Lt Col Jack Scroggs - Commander, 144<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron; Maj Jim Robinson - Commander, 176<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron.

**FOCUS ON RETENTION OF AGR MEMBERS.** The Alaska Air National Guard does not have a policy at this time to separate AGR members when they complete twenty years of active duty. At the same time we can not guarantee our AGRs specific service beyond twenty years of active duty. It is our practice to do everything practical to ensure that our AGR members have the opportunity to complete twenty years of active duty. The obvious exception is separation for cause. In our ever changing environment, it is just good common sense to be prepared for retirement regardless of when it occurs. The decision to retain AGR members who are eligible for an active duty retirement is left up to the individual's chain of command. We encourage all commanders to use sound force management reasons when considering retention or non - retention of all personnel. All personnel should understand that good force management practices do not always match individual wants and desires.

**ZOOM IN ON GRADUATION.** Alaska National Guard Youth Corps ChalleNGe Program held their graduation on Friday, February 14, 1997, at 9 a.m., at Fort Richardson. The next class begins March 19<sup>th</sup> with graduation August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1997. For more information or applications call 384-6015.

**PANORAMA ON COMMUNITY SUPPORT.** Want to get involved in a Community Service Project? These committees need your help: *Operation Santa Claus* or the *Governor's Picnic* - contact Capt Haller at 428-6030; *Flag Day Project* or the *Annual Homeless Veteran's Standdown* (Summer 97) - contact Chuck McLeod at 428-6016.